

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 INT-08 TRSE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 L-03

COME-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

IO-15 /086 W

----- 087177

R 280710Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PP, TQ, JA, PFOR, EAID

SUBJ: PAPUA NEW GUINEAN INQUIRY ON STATUS OF JAPANESE REPARATIONS
TO TRUST TERRITORY OF PACIFIC ISLANDS AND U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS
TO ADB SPECIAL FUND

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF IN RABAU SEPT 24, PAPUA NEW GUINEA MINISTER FOR FINANCE JULIUS CHAN ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF JAPANESE REPARATIONS PAYMENTS IN TTPI, AS PNG GOVERNMENT MAY BE INTERESTED IN RAISING ISSUE WITH JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT U.S. HAD RENOUNCED REPARATIONS AT TIME JAPANESE PEACE TREATY SIGNED IN 1951 BUT WOULD CHECK.

2. CHAN ALSO ASKED STATUS OF U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SPECIAL FUND FOR SMALLER-SCALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN, HAD MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINGENT ON U.S. CONTRIBUTION. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE.

3. COMMENT: RE JAPANESE REPARATIONS, PNG GOVERNMENT HAS FACED SERIES OF QUESTIONS FROM GIDEON APENG (MEMBER OF HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOR HUON GULF OPEN DISTRICT) ON JAPANESE REPARATIONS. APENG'S DISTRICT INCLUDES AREA OF LAE, SALAMAUA, AND HUON PENINSULA WHICH WERE SCENES OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN 1943-44 AND WHERE JAPANESE

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TREATMENT OF NATIVE POPULATION WAS PARTICULARLY HARSH. JAPANESE

INDUSTRIAL AND TRADING REPRESENTATIVES ARE FREQUENTLY TO BE FOUND IN
PRINCIPAL CENTERS OF PNG, AND CONNECTING THEIR PRESENCE WITH
POSSIBLE JAPANESE REPARATIONS PAYMENTS MUST SEEM NATURAL COURSE
OF ACTION TO MANY PNG LEADERS AT THIS TIME.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH INFO
ON TWO SUBJECTS NOTED ABOVE, FOR TRANSMISSION TO MINISTER CHAN.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973094/aaaaacso.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAPUA NEW GUINEAN INQUIRY ON STATUS OF JAPANESE REPARATIONS TO TRUST TERRITORY OF PACIFIC ISLANDS AND U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PP, TQ, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005